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Will Mumford - Editor
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IN THIS ISSUE

Annual Swap Meet: Grace United Methodist Church
11 September 1999: 11am – 3pm

3 - President's Preamble

4 - From Your Editor

5 - Minutes – June 12, 1999
March 20, 1999

8 - Putting Away The Silver
The Kirk-Stieff Co. Hajek

10 - Oysters Anybody...Part III
John K. Evans

16 - California Tokens Supplement
Kappen...Book Review – Judge

17 - Is a Plugged Nickel Worthless?
Ernie Turnes

18 - MD TAMS Classified

19 - MD TAMS Forms

MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor. Opinions expressed by the authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of MD TAMS, its Editor or its Officers. MD TAMS JOURNAL reserves the right to edit or reject any copy.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Correspondence pertaining to the business affairs of MD TAMS, including membership, change of address, etc., should be addressed to Secretary, P. O. Box 3273, Baltimore, MD 21208-0273.

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Spring	February 15th	March 21st
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MARYLAND TOKEN & MEDAL SOCIETY
1999 MEETING SCHEDULE

11 SEPT - ANNUAL SWAP MEET/GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (SAT) 11AM - 3PM CHARLES ST. & NORTHERN PARKWAY

10 OCT - BANC COIN SHOW/HOLIDAY INN **(SUN)** 11AM - 1PM ROOM 219 CROMWELL BRIDGE, RD. TOWSON, MD.

13 NOV - SUBURBAN WASH/BALT. SHOW (SAT) 11AM - 1PM ROOM TBD BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER

PRESIDENT'S PREAMBLE

We had a great meeting in May up at Aberdeen. Many thanks to Bernie Bodt and the fine folks at the Aberdeen Museum for their great hospitality and interesting historical presentations. Those in attendance were glad they came and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Since this is the Summer Journal, many of us are making our plans for those summer vacations. Make sure to leave room in your schedule for the Maryland State Numismatic Association Annual Convention at the Baltimore Convention Center 11-13 June. Most important is the **Maryland TAMS Annual Meeting** that is held on **Saturday 12 June.** This is an important meeting for our club and we want to have as many members attend as possible. Come on down to the show and go to the meeting. I also want to remind the membership about the next Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition **(BANC) Coin Show on Sunday 27 June** (9AM - 4PM) at the Cromwell Bridge Road Holiday Inn. Come browse the floor, buy some collectibles, and spend an hour or two working for your club. These shows are important to MD TAMS and BANC needs your support.

As I noted in the last Journal, we have begun an effort to document some Maryland related collecting topics that have heretofore not been the subject of any or much documentation in the Maryland TAMS Journal. As you have seen by now, this issue of the Journal was packaged differently. Enclosed with the Journal is the **first** of our new reference documents. I would like to begin by thanking Mill Hajek who researched and published this new reference on **"Maryland Municipal Trade Tokens".** I am sure most of you have some of these Maryland tokens - - now you know which ones are out there. Remember these first issues are draft documents - so if you have additions or corrections to what you find in the new reference, please get this data back to Mill or Maryland TAMS. We want our final reference to be as complete as possible. It is our intent to provide the membership with a new reference with each Journal for the next several years. In order to do this, many members will be called upon to do some research and publishing. Do not wait to be called on - step forward and volunteer to work on a reference for your favorite subject area.

It is only appropriate that on the occasion of our twentieth year as a viable hobby organization that we wish the Maryland Token & Medal Society a **Happy 20th Birthday!** We have come a long way and we are as strong now as we have ever been. The Maryland Token and Medal Society is indeed poised to enter the next millennium. As we pause and look back to 1979, we need to thank our co-founders, Millard Hajek and A. Vernon Taylor, for giving us our start and all those who followed and worked hard to make this the kind of organization we can be proud to claim as our own. **Thank you** on behalf of all the membership past and present.

Ed Craig
President, MD TAMS

From Your Editor...

Will Mumford

Well, it was bound to happen one of these years...I have a new computer with all kinds of stuff most of which I haven't really figured out how to use...but you can see I'm learning fast! I also got a scanner for Father's Day...but I haven't figured out how to use it yet so you can expect great things for the Fall Issue...I may even put the whole MDTAMS Journal on line on my web site so anybody could read it from all over the world...WOW...Awesome!!! So who knows what you'll see as you travel through the future pages of your Maryland TAMS!

Speaking of computers...how many of you have discovered eBay? It can be addictive so beware...It is an on line auction that lists a million (or so) different items each week. You may wish to give it a try on www.ebay.com ... I've gotten some really neat things on eBay and I notice that even Russ Sears is selling some of his stuff on eBay. I've gotten some nice hard to find coins. Some have come from Canada and several as far away as Australia!!! Lots of tokens and other weird stuff. I've obtained some nice old post cards from Anne Arundel County...lots from Baltimore.

We also could communicate better if we did so on email. How many of you are on line with email? If you are send me a note and be sure to mention MDTAMS so I don't trash you...my email address is wmumford@erols.com ... I'll compile a list and put it in the Journal if you wish to be listed. Maybe you could give me your address and your collecting specialties so you can talk to other collector/members with common interests. Let me know if I can publish your name and address...

I hope you like the Municipal Trade Tokens of Maryland reference by Millard Hajek. Remember...this is a draft and the final reference will be published later after you have looked it over and send Mill your additions or corrections. We plan one of these references with each MDTAMS Journal for the immediate future. Look them over and in their final edition they will make a nice addition to your Maryland collection of exonumia.

Happy 20th Birthday MD TAMS!!!

June 12, 1999

Minutes of the MD TAMS meeting held today in Room 349 of the Baltimore Convention Center

I-Meeting called to order by President CRAIG at 11:01am with 22 members and 1 guest in attendance (guest (Marge BURFORD) introduced herself). Attendance sheet attached.

II-Minutes of previous meeting (05-01-99) read by Secretary (J.BOSWELL). Those minutes approved as read.

III-Treasurer's report read by Treasurer (R.RUBY). Said report to stand unless/until audited (copy attached).

IV-Committee Reports:

a-Journal--E.CRAIG (Editor (W.MUMFORD) absent)--spoke on the differences (reference documents, etc.) that are expected to be in the next issue(s) of our Journal.

b-ANA 2003-J.BOSWELL reported that a reply had been received to our letter to the General Chairman of the 2003 ANA Convention (we can have a meeting, etc. at that Convention but we need to send another letter to the General Chairman of it about 18 months before that Convention). J.BOSWELL also reported that a letter concerning this Convention had been sent to the current TAMS President (R.GRINOLDS).

c-Literary Awards--J.BOSWELL reported that this Committee had made its selections (see VI"d" below).

d-Nominating--E.TURNES reported that all current officers of MD TAMS would accept re-election to their respective offices (see VI"f" below).

V-Old Business:

a-E.CRAIG again apologized for the "foul-up" on the Literary Buck Awards and said that he hoped to have it "straightened out" in the near future.

VI-New Business:

a-Door Prizes:E.CRAIG advised that today's door prizes were:(1)A set of MD TAMS elongateds & other MD TAMS items (they were won by J. BOSWELL), (2)Five of the MSNA Raffle Tickets we had previously purchased (they were won by R.RUBY), (3)Five more of the MSNA Raffle Tickets (they were won by M.BURRIS) and (4)The remaining five MSNA Raffle Tickets we had bought (They were won by T.KOTCHE).

b-Book Raffle--Tickets were sold and the book was won by L.WHITE.

c-E.CRAIG reported that our next meeting would be at our annual Swap Meet (held at the Grace U.M. Church) on 09-11-1999.

d-Awards (Literary & Membership recruitment)

1-First Place (a gold plated Constellation Medal & Certificate of Achievement) won by M.HAJEK.

2-Second Place (a "raw" bronze Constellation Medal & Certificate of Achievement) won by E.TURNES.

3-Award for most new members won by W.MUMFORD.

e-E.CRAIG reported that the "give-aways" for today's meeting would be:(1)A embossed "Frog Skin Buck" (members not in attendance would be send (along with the next issue of our Journal) a Frog Skin Buck that <u>IS NOT</u> embossed) and (2)Members in attendance also received a MD-TAMS-OPOLY Game (created/made by M.HAJEK).

f-Motion by T.KOTCHE, 2nd by J.SEARS that our current officers be re-elected to their respective office. Motion passed unanimously!

MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 1999 MD TAMS MEETING (CONT.)

VII-ANNOUNCEMENTS:
A-E.CRAIG:SPOKE ON OUR TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND INVITED EVERYONE TO PARTAKE OF THE (BEAUTIFUL) CAKE THAT HAD BEEN MADE FOR SAME.
B-E.CRAIG ANNOUNCED THE DATES (06-27-99 AND 10-10-99) FOR THE NEXT TWO BANC SHOWS (WE ARE ONE OF THE THREE "CLUBS" IN BANC) AND MD TAMS' DUTIES FOR SAME.
C-W.LENZ SPOKE ON THE EDUCATIONAL FORUM AT THIS YEAR'S MSNA/ARCE CONVENTION AND THE "GIVE-AWAYS" AVAILABLE AT SAME.
D-R.RUBY SPOKE ON THE ANNUAL "HAMPSTEAD DAY" MEDAL. HE ALSO DONATED AN EXAMPLE OF THIS YEAR'S MEDAL TO OUR "CABINET".

VIII-SHOW & TELL:
A-J.BOSWELL SHOWED:(1)A 04-12-99 COIN WORLD ARTICLE ABOUT US/OUR JOURNAL AND (2)A ARTICLE (SENT TO HIM BY R.KAMINSKI) ON THE MD STATEHOOD QUARTER TO BE RELEASED BY THE MINT NEXT YEAR.
B-E.CRAIG:A U.S.S. CONSTELLATION MEDAL.
C-T.KOTCHE:SOME MOROCCAN (BERBER) COINS THAT HAD BEEN MADE INTO JEWELRY.

IX-MEETING RECESSED SO MEMBERS COULD PARTAKE OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CAKE, VIEW THE AUCTION LOTS, ETC.

X-MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER BY E.CRAIG SO THE AUCTION COULD BE HELD. AUCTION CONDUCTED BY R.SEARS (ASSISTED BY E.CRAIG (THE RECORDERS WERE J.BOSWELL & R.RUBY)) WHICH RESULTED IN $30.45 (INCLUDING DONATED LOT) BEING ADDED TO OUR TREASURY.

MINUTES OF THE MD TAMS MEETING HELD MARCH 20, 1999

I-MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT (E.CRAIG) AT 11:00AM (30 MEMBERS AND 2 GUESTS SIGNED ATTENDANCE SHEET). ATTENDANCE SHEET IS ATTACHED.

II-GUESTS WERE ASKED TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.

III-MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (11-14-98) APPROVED AS PUBLISHED IN OUR JOURNAL.

IV-TREASURER'S REPORT:READ BY TREASURER (R.RUBY). SAID REPORT TO STAND UNLESS/UNTIL AUDITED (COPY ATTACHED).

V-COMMITTEE REPORTS:
A-JOURNAL:NO REPORT (EDITOR (W.MUMFORD) ABSENT) BUT E.CRAIG REMINDED EVERYONE THAT ARTICLES ARE ALWAYS NEEDED.
B-LITERARY AWARDS:J.BOSWELL REMINDED EVERYONE OF THE AWARDS AND WHICH ISSUES OF OUR JOURNAL THAT CONTAINED ELIGIBLE ARTICLES. E.CRAIG SPOKE BRIEFLY ON SAME.
C-TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MD TAMS:E.CRAIG BROUGHT EVERYONE UP TO DATE ON WHAT WE WILL BE DOING FOR THIS ANNIVERSARY.
D-MD TAMS' A.N.A. 2003:NO REPORT.

VI-OLD BUSINESS:
A-E.CRAIG SPOKE ON OUR PARTICIPATION IN BANC SHOWS AND THE SUCCESS OF THE LAST BANC SHOW. HE ALSO THANKED OUR MEMBERS WHO HAD WORKED THE SHOW(S) IN QUESTION.
B-BOOK SALES:E.CRAIG & R.RUBY ADVISED THAT TWO ADDITIONAL COPIES OF "MARYLAND MERCHANT TOKENS", BY D.E.SCHENKMAN HAD BEEN SOLD (ONE BY E.CRAIG & ONE BY J.BOSWELL).
C-E.CRAIG READ A LETTER FROM THE A.N.A. REGARDING OUR DONATION TO THEIR MID-WINTER SHOW.

VII-NEW BUSINESS:
A-BOOK RAFFLE:E.CRAIG ADVISED THAT WE WOULD AGAIN RAFFLE OFF A COPY OF THE MD MERCHANT TOKENS BOOK IF ENOUGH TICKETS WERE SOLD. FORTY FIVE (45) TICKETS WERE SOLD. BOOK WON BY W.LENZ.

MINUTES OF MD TAMS' 03-20-99 MEETING (CONT.):

B-MSNA RAFFLE TICKETS: E.CRAIG SPOKE ON THESE TICKETS (HE IS THE CHAIRMAN FOR MSNA'S RAFFLE COMMITTEE). MOTION BY J.BOSWELL 2ND BY R.RUBY THAT WE BUY 25 OF THESE TICKETS WITH OUR WINNINGS (IF ANY) TO BE DISPOSED OF AT THE DISCRETION OF OUR OFFICERS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C-E.CRAIG ADVISED THAT OUR NEXT MEETING WOULD BE ON MAY 1, 1999 AT ABERDEEN, MD. B.BODT GAVE A SHORT REPORT ON THE FACILITIES, ETC. AT THE MEETING SITE.

D-LITERARY CONTRIBUTOR: E.CRAIG SPOKE ON THESE AWARDS AND GAVE A "LITERARY BUCK" TO: D.BOHASKA, G.BOHASKA, J.BOSWELL, M.HAJEK W.STONE, E.TURNES AND HIMSELF AT TODAY'S MEETING (THE RECIPIENTS WHO WERE NOT PRESENT (J.EVANS, C. JUDGE, W.MUMFORD, S.SHORAKA & R.WINTER) WILL HAVE THEIR LITERARY BUCK MAILED TO THEM).

E-E.CRAIG APPOINTED E.TURNES, W.LENZ & W.STRATEMEYER TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING OF MD TAMS.

VIII-ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A-R.RUBY--DUES ARE DUE!

B-T.KOTCHE--ON THE POSSIBILITY OF US SETTING UP A "WEB SITE".

C-W.MASSEY--(A) THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COIN CLUB HAS GOTTEN SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS VIA THEIR WEB SITE.
(B) ON ELONGATED CENTS, ETC. HE HAS AVAILABLE.

D-B.DOXZON--GAR TRAVIS IS A CANDIDATE FOR THE ANA BOARD. MOTION BY M.HAJEK, SECONDED BY G.FULD THAT WE SUPPORT MR.TRAVIS'S CANDIDACY (NOMINATION FORM SIGNED BY E.CRAIG & J.BOSWELL). MOTION PASSED.
NOTE: B.DOXZON IS TO SEND IN THE COMPLETED FORM.

E-E.CRAIG SPOKE ABOUT THE NEXT BANC SHOW AND OUR MEMBERS' DUTIES FOR SAME.

F-W.STRATEMEYER SPOKE ABOUT THE SPEAKERS, PROGRAM, ETC. FOR THE UPCOMING MSNA/ARCE SHOW.

G-W.LENZ SPOKE ABOUT SOME OF THE DEALERS WHO HAD ALREADY SIGNED UP FOR THIS YEAR'S MSNA/ARCE SHOW AND THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL DEALERS.

H-E.TURNES & E.CRAIG SPOKE ON THE NEED FOR EXHIBITORS FOR THIS YEAR'S MSNA/ARCE SHOW AND THAT WE WOULD MAKE AN AWARD FOR THE BEST TOKEN/MEDAL EXHIBIT AT SAME.

I-E.CRAIG--RAY GREIMAN (LONG TIME DEALER AT THE BANC, ETC. SHOWS) HAD PASSED AWAY RECENTLY.

J-W.MILLER--HE IS SELLING THE BULK OF HIS COLLECTION (SEE HIS AD ON SAME IN THE LAST ISSUE OF OUR JOURNAL).

K-E.CRAIG--THE DOOR PRIZE FOR TODAY'S MEETING WOULD BE A AL SESQUICENTENNIAL (2 PIECE) SET. DOOR PRIZE WON BY J.HEBEL.

L-E.CRAIG: ON ENCASED "BONNIE BLINK" TOKENS.

IX-SHOW & TELL: NONE.

X-MEETING RECESSED SO THAT THOSE IN ATTENDANCE COULD VIEW THE AUCTION LOTS, "STRETCH THEIR LEGS", ETC..

XI-MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER SO AUCTION COULD BE CONDUCTED.

XII-AUCTION CONDUCTED BY R.SEARS WHO WAS ASSISTED BY E.CRAIG (THE RECORDERS WERE J.BOSWELL & R.RUBY). AUCTION RESULTED IN $28.50 (INCLUDING DONATED LOT) BEING ADDED TO OUR TREASURY.

XIII-MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:40PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JAMES M. BOSWELL, SECRETARY

Putting Away The Silver . . . . . The Kirk-Stieff Company

By Millard W. Hajek

Baltimore's **Kirk-Stieff** factory shut down on January 15, 1999 and die maker Herman Engel and his co-workers packed up their tools for the last time, polishing off a 184-year history of silver making.

As Herman Charles Engel, Jr. walked through the Kirk-Steiff factory, there was an eerie silence. The formidable hammering machines stood mute, hundreds of tools and dies awaiting reassignment while employees tended to final chores. It's like the lull after a memorable dinner party, a few people reliving the high points while they clear the table.

Engel, the 76 year-old die maker who has spent most of the past 57 years in this building, has known for months that **Brown-Forman**, owner of the **Lenox Company**, which purchased Kirk-Stieff in 1990, would cease production at the Baltimore factory located on Wyman Park Drive and 229 North Howard street to consolidate operations at its plant in Rhode Island. But it still seemed strange, he said, to clean out his file cabinet and pack up the tool box with its worn photo of Jane Russell, another timeless classic, for the last time.

Closing of the factory on January 15, 1999 ended a 184-year tradition of silver making in Baltimore that began inn 1815 when Samuel Kirk founded Kirk & Son. In the 1950's, when Steiff was producing Colonial Williamsburg line of pewter as well as silver replicas, it became the largest manufacturer of pewter products in the country.

Herman Engel remembers the days he was making steel dies for some of the nation's most desirable silver flatware. There was the Stieff Rose pattern, the Betsy Paterson - the plain and the engraved - the Chantilly, the Clinton, the Lady Claire, the Royal Dynasty, the Homewood. It was exacting, meticulous wonderfully concrete work, work that belonged to an era when couples poured over place settings instead of pre-nups.

This factory was always a place where people were text-books and skills were heirlooms to be passed along. Closing up shop not only robbed the city of a traditional craft but also stole the these workers powers to bequeath it.

Samuel Kirk & Son, has the distinction of being the oldest maker of silverware in the United States. Founded in 1815 in Baltimore, this firm introduced in America in 1828 the beautiful "Repousse" (shaped or ornamental patterns in relief made by hammering or pressing on the reverse side) flatware, which has ever since been known as "Kirk Silver." Samuel Kirk came to Baltimore in 1815 from Doylestown, Pennsylvania and was of Quaker ancestry. He opened a small shop on Market Street, today called Baltimore Street (at 114 Baltimore, St.). The business, in the course of years, occupied two other locations on Baltimore Street. But in 1924 the retail jewelry store moved from Baltimore Street to North Charles Street at Franklin and the new factory was constructed at Kirk Avenue and 729 East 25th Street where it established its headquarters.

Recently, Samuel Kirk & Son joined forces with another fine, well established Baltimore firm, **The Stieff Company** to become the **Kirk-Stieff Company** in 1979. Though a new name, the company continued to assure the country's fine quality sterling heritage.

The Stieff Company was founded in 1892 as the Baltimore Sterling Silver Co. and in 1904 it was succeeded by The Stieff Company. Charles C. Stieff & Company was the predecessor of the Baltimore Sterling Silver Co., 1890-1892

Token and medal collectors have memories of The Steiff Company factory on Wyman Park Drive too! Visitors to the factory were often given a souvenir token to help capture the memories of their visit. Illustrated below are some examples of these tokens that I have in my collection. They were issued in pewter and silver with some silver tokens engraved with the visitors name.

References: The Sun, January 14, 1999, Story by Linell Smith
The Old Line state, A History of Maryland 1956, by Morris L. Radoff
City of Baltimore, A Half Century's Progress, 1886.
Baltimore An Illustrated History, by Suzanne Ellery Greene 1980
Silver in Maryland, by Jennifer Faulds Goldsborough 1983,
Maryland Historical Society

Ohio 120B

OYSTERS ANYBODY?

By John K. Evans
Professor of History
University of Minnesota

Mich 225G

(Editor's Note...The following article was submitted to the Civil War Token Society Journal for publication and permission was granted to publish the article in the MD TAMS Journal as well. As oysters are dear to the hearts (and stomachs) of Marylanders we thank Professor Evans for allowing us to print his well-researched article. This is Part III which concludes the three part series.)

Civil War storecards give a tantalizing glimpse of the oyster's triumphant march to the west-- and of the vital role that the railroad played in the process. In 1860 America already had well in excess of 30,000 miles of railroad-- more than the rest of the world combined. In the northeast, the midwest, and the middle Atlantic region, where the vast majority of the trackage was concentrated, there were so many railroads that a businessman or his goods could travel from Boston to St. Louis in only three days. Hence in a large city like Detroit, which was linked to the east coast by the Great Western and the New York Central, the gourmand could always bring an oyster recipe to life by shopping at George Beard & Son's Oyster, Fruit, Fish, and Game Depot (MI 225G). Five of the company's seven varieties are R-9 or R-10, but the other two (1a, 2a) are a more accessible R-5.

The oyster's presence in a city like Detroit was only to be expected, but it appears that midwestern farmers who developed a sudden craving for the bivalve could also indulge themselves without inconvenience. In Warsaw-- a northern Indiana farming community served primarily by the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago R.R., which connected with the fabled Pennsylvania R.R. at Pittsburgh -- D. Carlile dealt in "oysters, confectionary, cigars,

etc" (IN 950A). The six varieties are, at R-8 to R-10, all rare, but one should pay particular attention to 1b. The 1008 reverse is dated 1862, and was a product of the Childs workshop in Chicago: Carlile looked to the railroad to supply him with goods from the east, and tokens from the west.

More interesting still is Mr. J.P. Fornshell of Camden, Ohio. Six varieties of storecard, two of which (OH 120B-1a, 2a) are R-6, call him a "grocer & oyster dealer." Then as now, Camden was a tiny hamlet north of Cincinnati; indeed, in Colton's General Atlas (New York, 1863), Camden does not even make the map! If Fornshell could offer oysters to his customers, it was only because Camden was served by the 45 precious miles of the Eaton and Hamilton, which connected Camden to the outside world at Richmond, Indiana and Hamilton, Ohio.[14]

Out on the frontier-- or, in this instance, East Saginaw, Michigan-- a fur trader could sell his pelts to Charles Turner (MI 280G), and then lighten his purse at John McKay's Oyster, Fruit, and Fish Depot (MI 280D). The oyster was everywhere, but since the six varieties of McKay's storecard are all R-8 or R-9, perhaps not everywhere in the same quantity.

The latter is an important point. What cost a cent on the quaysides of Baltimore or Boston might cost a dollar in the mythical Wild West. The western movie has spawned a popular misconception of the miner and the cowhand as colorful characters who lived on bacon and beans, and occasionally ventured into town to get drunk and blow off steam-- and wonder of wonders, perhaps even spring for a bath and a shave. In reality, the rowdiest mining camps and cow towns had restaurants whose offerings would rival anything in San Francisco, New York, or Paris. Chef Louis de Pay, the epicurean owner of the Hotel de Paris in Georgetown,

Colorado, paid huge sums to have fresh oysters hauled across the Rockies-- and he passed his costs directly on to his customers, a lively but typical mix of lead miners and faro dealers who held the bivalve in nothing short of religious veneration. In the aptly named mining camp of Goldfield, Nevada, the menu at the Palm Grill featured such imported delicacies as sand dabs and Buzzard Bay oysters. In the foothills of the Sierras, forty-niners who struck it rich lived on French champagne and Pacific oysters. By 1851 the oyster beds in San Francisco Bay had already been completely exhausted, leaving the local oystermen little choice but to move north. At mid-century, thanks to the inexhaustible demands of miners in California and Nevada, the most thriving metropolis in Washington wasn't Seattle but a place that one can still visit today on Wallapa Bay, although in its present incarnation Oysterville is a quiet seaside hamlet that betrays nothing of its great past. Still, whenever they could find them, these hardy gourmands always preferred Chesapeake Bay's legendary Blue Points.

Transport costs being what they were, miners were prepared to pay handsomely for this the most prized of mollusks. We know, in fact, that in the mining camps oysters did sometimes cost as much as a dollar each-- something to think about the next time you see a circulated Carson City Seated Liberty or Morgan silver dollar in a dealer's case as you busily search out the next storecard to add to your collection.[15]

N.Y. 105H

Wisc 920I

Footnotes:

1. The phrase was coined by Don Miller, "Oyster Mania," Mankind 6 (1981) 13.

2. See Alice Morse Earle's classic Home Life in Colonial Days (New York, 1898, reprinted Stockbridge, Mass., 1993) 119; and Joseph Conlin, "Consider the Oyster," American Heritage 31.2 (Feb.-March, 1980), 66.

3. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970 (Washington, D.C., 1975) Series L 262-293; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996, 116th edition (Washington, D.C., 1996) Table 1137.

4. See again Conlin, "Consider the Oyster" 70.

5. Eliza Leslie was to the nineteenth century what Julia Child is to the kitchen today. Happily, this valuable piece of Americana has been reprinted (New York, 1973).

6. See further W. Root and R. de Rochemont, Eating in America: a History (New York, 1976) 135; and H.A. Levenstein, Revolution at the Table (Oxford, 1988) 19-20.

7. For prices see again Root and de Rochemont, Eating in America 135; Miller, "Oyster Mania" 13; Conlin, "Consider the Oyster" 70; and the latter's Bacon, Beans, and Galantines: Food and Foodways on the Western Mining Frontier (Reno and Las Vegas, 1986) 119.

8. I wish to express my thanks to CWTS President Sterling Rachootin, who supplied a copy of the five cent scrip note to me. I should also like at this point to thank Steve Tanenbaum, who generously supplied me with several of the tokens whose illustrations accompany this article.

9. For more on Lincoln's notorious oyster orgies, see again Root and de Rochemont, Eating in America 135.

10. From its inception, the New York & Erie Railroad experienced the convoluted financial swings that characterized this infant industry during the so-called Hard Times. For a capsule description of this and the other 19th century railroads mentioned in this article, see G.H. Drury, The Historical Guide to North American Railroads (Milwaukee, 1985).

11. In the section on Maryland trade tokens (pp.457-467), R. Rulau's Standard Catalog of United States Tokens, 1700-1900 (Iola, WI, 1994) lists shucker checks from 14 different Maryland oyster packing houses, but one should note that Baltimore alone housed 110 oyster and fruit packing houses in 1881. For more on this topic, see M. and G. Fuld, "The Canning Industry in Baltimore," Token Collector's Pages (Boston, 1972) 125-129.

12. For oysters in Cheyenne, see the wonderfully evocative study of Pat Jahns, The Frontier World of Doc Holliday (New York, 1957, reprinted 1993) 76.

13. Jahns, Frontier World 88 note 22. See also J.R. Conlin, "Beans, Bacon, and Galantine Truffles: the Food of the Western Miners," Arizona and the West 23.1 (1981) 49.

14. J.H. Colton, Colton's General Atlas (New York, 1863).

15. For menus and prices in the so-called Wild West, see again Miller, "Oyster Mania" 14, 42-43; Conlin, "Beans, Bacon, and Galantine Truffles" 35-36; "Consider the Oyster" 68-69; and Bacon, Beans, and Galantines 119.

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CALIFORNIA TOKENS SUPPLEMENT

BY CHARLES V. KAPPEN

A Book Review by Curtis H. Judge

Mr. Charles V. Kappen has recently published the long awaited supplement to his 1977 California Tokens reference work. The new volume is a supplement to the first, in that all original listings are included only in the first volume. The avid California collector will need both volumes to have complete information. Availability of the first is not a problem and can be purchased through a number of sources.

Format of the new supplement is in the increasingly popular 8 1/2" X 11" large format. The hardbound book consists of almost 600 pages and is printed on good quality heavy paper stock which will withstand years of usage. The author includes several photographic plates of tokens which are of good clear quality.

All listings of the individual tokens give complete identification information including size, metallic composition, obverse and reverse inscriptions. Each token is assigned a unique catalog number for reference. Mr. Kappen continued the listings from the previous volume without changing format. The new listings under each town continue their numbering where the old catalog left off. This factor will save much time with the collector not having to check all previously cataloged tokens for potential listing changes. The reviewer estimates that some 11-12,000 new listings are included.

With the Supplement being a continuation of the first volume, the author did not believe it necessary to reprint most of the introductory material. The abbreviations index is reprinted for ease of use, and a maverick token locator index is included at the end of the volume. Historical data on token issuers and locations is also sadly omitted.

Mr. Kappen did not include a rarity scale, date of use, or current pricing information on the new tokens in the supplement. An attempt at rarity indication was provided by showing the number of tokens reported by collectors during the listing process. Era of issue is simply shown as "OLD" pre 1949 or "NEW" post 1949 unless the date is inscribed on the token. The issue of pricing or value is not addressed as the author felt that to include this information would have delayed publication of the book by a year or more.

The California Tokens Supplement is a must have for all serious collectors of California tokens. The additional listings are worth the price of the volume.

Copies may be ordered directly from the author, Mr. Charles V. Kappen, P.O. Box 35560 Monte Sereno, CA 95030-0560. Cost is $65.00 post paid

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Ernie Turnes

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* Taken from "So What's A Plugged Nickel?" in MAKING MONEY by Edward C. Rochette.

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October 10 - BANC Coin Show/Holiday Inn

November 13 – Suburban Wash/Balt Coin Show
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